

5. (Amended) [The system of claim 1 which further includes] A system for ink replenishment for an inkjet printer comprising:

a frame for holding one or more ink supply modules;

an interconnect member on said frame, said interconnect member having an ink supply interface and an air supply interface;

an ink supply module mountable on said frame for coupling to said ink supply interface and for coupling to said air supply interface so that ink in said ink supply module may be subjected to predetermined positive pressures greater than ambient air pressure;

an air compressor device in communication with said air supply interface to provide variable air pressure to said ink supply module to facilitate a startup non-printing mode prior to reaching a minimum threshold positive pressure and a different operational printing mode after reaching the minimum threshold positive pressure for transmission of liquid ink from said ink supply module to an inkjet print cartridge;

a sensor for monitoring the air pressure of said air compressor device;

control electronics coupled to said air compressor device and to said sensor to control said air compressor device based on signals received from said sensor in order to provide greater air pressure from said air compressor device during said startup non-printing mode thereby reducing startup time; and

a plurality of ink supply modules all connected to said air supply interface so that ink in said plurality of ink supply modules may be subjected to predetermined positive pressures greater than ambient air pressure.

6. (Amended) The system of claim [1] 5 wherein said control electronics controls the air pressure of said air compressor device by operating said air compressor at a given high speed during said startup non-printing mode.

7. (Unchanged) The system of claim 6 wherein said control electronics controls the air pressure of said air compressor device by operating said air compressor at a lesser speed during said different operational printing mode.

8. (Unchanged) The system of claim 5 wherein said plurality of ink supply modules includes a black ink module and a color ink module, and wherein the minimum threshold positive pressure required in order to commence said different operational printing mode is based on operational parameters of said black ink module.

9. (Unchanged) The system of claim 5 wherein said plurality of ink supply modules includes a black ink module and a color ink module, and wherein the minimum threshold positive pressure required in order to commence said different operational printing mode is based on operational parameters of said color ink module.

10. (Amended) The system of claim [1] 5 wherein the minimum threshold positive pressure required in order to commence said different operational printing mode is based on a determination of an amount of ink left in said ink supply module.

11. (Amended) The system of claim [1] 5 wherein said ink supply module is removably installable on said frame.

12. (Unchanged) The system of claim 11 wherein said ink supply module includes liquid ink from the following group: black, cyan, magenta, yellow.

13. (Amended) [The method of claim 3 which further includes] A method of providing ink from an external ink supply to an inkjet printhead comprising:

providing an auxiliary supply of ink in a collapsible bag inside of a protective enclosure;

connecting the auxiliary ink supply with a print cartridge through an ink delivery conduit;

subjecting the collapsible bag to air pressure greater than ambient air pressure to facilitate transmission of the ink from the auxiliary supply of ink to the print cartridge during ink ejection from the inkjet printhead;

monitoring the air pressure of said subjecting step;

controlling operation of an air compressor in order to accelerate an increase of the air pressure applied to the collapsible bag during a non-printing startup mode as well as stabilize the air pressure applied to the collapsible bag during a different operational printing mode in accordance with predetermined parameters;

providing a plurality of inkjet printheads each respectively connected to its own separate auxiliary supply of ink; and

subjecting all of the separate auxiliary supplies of ink to a predetermined sequence of air pressures greater than ambient air pressure.

14. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 13 which further includes reducing the air pressure applied to the collapsible bag to maintain the air pressure below a predetermined maximum level.

15. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 13 which further includes leaking air from the protective enclosure to prevent undesirable excessive air pressure applied to the collapsible bag.

16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 13 which further includes providing an auxiliary

supply of black ink and a separate auxiliary supply of color ink, and applying increased air pressure during a startup mode until reaching a minimum threshold positive pressure based on black or color ink printing parameters, and then applying a different lower air pressure during an operational printing mode.

17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 13 which further includes providing an auxiliary supply of black ink and a separate auxiliary supply of color ink, and applying different air pressure during a startup mode or an operational mode based on a determination of an amount of ink left in the auxiliary ink supplies.

18. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 13 which includes operating an air compressor at a first speed during the non-printing startup mode, and operating the air compressor at a lesser speed during the different operational print mode to maintain the air pressure applied to the collapsible bag during the operational print mode above a minimum operation pressure for a printhead as well as below a predetermined maximum operating pressure.

Remarks

Claims 5, 8, 9, 13, 16 and 17 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, allowable system claim 5 is now amended to be in independent form and includes all the limitations of its base claim 1. Allowable claims 8 and 9 are now acceptable as dependent upon independent claim 5 as amended. In addition, previously rejected dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended to be dependent directly or indirectly upon the aforesaid allowable claims.